

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The mobile phone~~ Apparatus as defined in claim 1 ~~further characterized by including means for alerting a user indicating that the said~~ touch screen lock is activated or deactivated.
3. (Currently amended) ~~The mobile phone~~ Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein ~~said user alerting means is further characterized by a message is shown on the touch screen display~~ indicating that ~~the said~~ touch screen lock is in an activated mode.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The mobile phone~~ Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein ~~said user alerting means is further characterized in that~~ a closed lock icon is shown on the touch screen display indicating that ~~the said~~ touch screen lock is in an activated mode.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The mobile phone~~ Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein ~~said user alerting means is further characterized by a message is shown on the touch screen display~~ indicating ~~the said~~ touch screen lock is in a deactivated mode.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The mobile phone~~ Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein ~~said user alerting means is further characterized in that~~ an open lock icon is shown on the touch screen display indicating that ~~the said~~ touch screen lock is in a deactivated mode.
- 7.-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim ~~12~~ 19 further ~~characterized by the~~
~~steps of comprising:~~

detecting a pressing contact with the surface of the touch screen display within a ~~second~~
~~third~~ predetermined time interval ~~duration interval of less duration than the second predetermined~~
time interval duration as measured from the end of the long pressing contact for ,~~and~~

maintaining the touch screen lock in an activated mode in response to the detection of
contact with the touch screen surface during the second predetermined time interval ~~duration~~
~~interval~~.

16. (New) Apparatus, comprising:

a mobile phone configured and arranged with a touch screen display for selectively
operating a desired phone function or ending the operation of said ongoing phone function in
response to a pressing contact on the touch screen display surface;

a touch screen lock for deactivating the pressing contact operation of said touch screen
display during an ongoing call, and

a contact determining mechanism for detecting the presence or absence of a pressing
contact on the touch screen display responsive to a first long pressing contact on any location
along the touch screen display surface, said long pressing contact being defined as a pressing
contact greater than or equal to a first predetermined time interval duration, for activating said
touch screen lock to disable the pressing contact operation of said touch screen display during the
ongoing call such that the mobile phone is placed in an operative state that is non-responsive to a
pressing contact on the touch screen display surface, and responsive to an absence of a pressing
contact on any location along the touch screen display surface during the ongoing call within a
second predetermined time interval duration measured from the end of said first long pressing
contact for deactivating said touch screen lock to enable the pressing contact operation of said
touch screen display such that the mobile phone is placed in an operative state that is responsive
to a pressing contact on the touch screen display surface to operate a desired phone function or
end the ongoing call.

17. (New) The apparatus as defined in claim 16 wherein said contact determining mechanism is further responsive to a pressing contact within a third predetermined time interval duration of less duration than said second predetermined time interval duration as measured from the end of said first long pressing contact to maintain said touch screen lock in an active state.

18. (New) Method, comprising:

a touch screen display responding to a pressing contact on the touch screen display surface for selectively operating a desired phone function or ending the operation of an ongoing phone function in a mobile phone;

activating a touch screen lock for deactivating the pressing contact operation of the touch screen display during an ongoing call by detecting the presence or absence of a pressing contact on the touch screen display and responding to a long pressing contact on any location along the touch screen display surface to disable the pressing contact operation of the touch screen display such that the mobile phone is in an operative state that is non-responsive to a pressing contact on the touch screen display surface, and responding to the absence of a pressing contact on any location along the touch screen display surface during the ongoing call within a predetermined time interval duration measured from the end of the long pressing contact for deactivating the touch screen lock to enable the pressing contact operation of the touch screen display such that the mobile phone is in an operative state that is responsive to a pressing contact on the touch screen display surface.

19. (New) The method as defined in claim 18 wherein the long pressing contact with the touch screen display surface is greater than or equal to a first predetermined time interval duration.